National Day of Bangladesh



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Independence





Today is 26th March, our Independence and National Day. This year we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. On this

Jubilee of our Independence. On this occasion. I extend my heartfelt greetings and warm fellicitations to my fellow countrymen living at home and abroad. On this historic day, I remember with profound respect the architect of our independent Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. On the fateful night of March 25, 1971, the invading forces of Pakistan suidenny affacted the un- 1971, the invading forces of Pakistan suddenly attacked the un-armed Bangalees. In the early hours of March 26, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman officially declared the Independence of Bangladesh. We achieved an indepen-Bangladesh. We achieved an independent, and sovereign Bangladesh through a nine-month long liberation war. I recall with deep respect the millions of martys who sportflood their lives in the War of Liberation and we achieved our Independence for their supreme sacrifice. I also recall with deep revenence our Four National Leaders, valiant freedom-fighters, organizers, supporters, foreign friends and people from all walks of life who made contributions to attain our right to self-determination and freedom movement. determination and freedom movement

Bangabandhu always cherished a dream of building a happy and prosper-ous country along with attaining political emanopation. The present government has been rendering untring efforts in materializing that dream of Bangabandhu. We have achieved enormous success in various areas of socio-economic development including poverty allevisition, education, health, human resources development, women empowement, reduction of child and maternal mortality rates, elim-Bangabandhu always cherished a child and maternal mortality rates, elimination of gender discrimination and increase in average life expectancy. Rate of poverty has been dropped. Per capita income has tripled over the past decade. In various indicators of economic and social development, Bangladesh has been able to surpass not only the neighboring countries of South Asia, but also many developed

countries.

Despite the negative impact of the Corona pandemic on the world economy, due to the timely and courageous steps taken by Horble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the government has been able to maintain the economic growth by countering the effects of Corona. Huge amount of remittances

sent by expatriate Bangladeshis has made an important contribution to keep the wheel of the economy rolling during this time. The government has an-nounced 23 stimulus packages worth tale 1 talk 24 timusent expansion. nounced 23 stimulus packages worth taka 1 lakh 24 thousand crore (\$14.8 billion) to keep the wheel of economy rolling. Arrangements have also been made to provide COVID-19 vaccine. Bangladesh ranks first in South Asia and 20% in the world in the "COVID Resilience Ranking" compiled by the US news agency Bloomberg for successful handling of corona pendemic, economic revival and manifaming nor economic revival and maintaining nor-mal livelihoods. Through this, Bangladesh's image has been upheld around the world.

around the world.

Recently, Bangladesh has received the final recommendation from the United Nations to her emergence from United Nations to her emergence from a least developed country to a developing one. It is a unique gift for the nation at the juncture of "Mujlobarsho" and the 'Golden Jubilee' of our Independence. Bangladesh will turn into a developed and prosperous country in the world by 2041 by ensuring continuation of current development process, Insha Allah. In pursuing our diplomatic objectives, the government has been consistent in

the government has been consistent in upholding the principle of "Friendship to all, malice towards none" as enunciated by the Father of the Nation. Our achievement in the international arena achievement in the international arena, including the establishment of world peace, is also commendable. Despite being a densely populated country. Bangladesh has set a unique example of humanity in the world by sheltening millions of Rohingyas who have been tortured and forcibly deported from Myanmar, Bangladesh believes in a peaceful solution to this problem. I call upon the United Nations and the international community, including Myanmar, national community, including Myanmar, to take early and effective measures for permanent solution to this problem.

permanent soution to this problem. Japan is one of the ploneering coun-tries that recognized Bangladesh on 10 February 1972. Since then, the relations between the two countries grew strength to strength setting an excellent example of frusted friendship, co-oper-ation and development parthership. Japan is actively involved in several maga projects including Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge Construction Project, Hazrat Shanjalal International Airport Expansion Project etc. Japan and Bangladesh are Project etc. Japan and Bangladesh are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2022. I thank the people and the Government of Japan for being with us always and firm-ly believes that the friendship between the two countries will reach at greater

the two countries will reach at greater heights in the days to come.

On the eve of Mujibbarsho' and the Golden Jubilee of our Independence, with the joint efforts of all, may our beloved motherland become a developed country free from hunger and poverty - this is my expectation on the great Independence Day.

Jic Bandia

Joi Bangla. Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live

Md. Abdul Hamid



Yoshihide Suga

On behalf of the government and people of Japan, I would like to offer my hearliet congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the Independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as well as the centennial birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first President of Bangladesh. Fifty years ago, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led Bangladesh to independence with his indomitable spirit. On behalf of the government and

dependence with his indomitable spirit. Japan was one of the first countries that recognized Bangladesh as a nation state right after its independence, and we had the privilege of welcoming

we had the privilege of welcoming Bangabandhu to Japan. During his stay in Japan, Ban-gabandhu visited even farming and fishing villages in rural areas, where he interacted with many local Japanese otizens. He said he considered the de-velopment of Japan as a model to fol-low, and later he made tremendous ef-forts to strengthen bilateral ties. I un-derstand that it was the idea of Bangabandhu himself to design the Bangladeshi national flag in a way that resembles the Japanese one, just like we are brothers.

resembles rue uspanieso o negative are brothers.

Japan and Bangladesh, both having nostalgic yet beautiful landscape of paddy fields, have valued fleart to heart exchanges" and have developed profound interactions among oltzens at a

found interactions among olizens at a grassroots levet.

Just as Japanese children tried hard and collected relief donations for Bangladesh in the afternath of a cy-cione at the time of its independence, Bangladesh offered to Japan in the form of relief funds and supplies when the Great East. Japan Earthrouse struck us. Great East Japan Earthquake struck us 10 years ago. Our traditional friendship is now fied with a strong and firm bond under the spirit of trust, cooperation, and mutual benefit.

mutual benefit.

Regarding economic relations, Japan has consistently supported Bangiadesh's efforts toward the realization of "Sonar Bangia" since its independence. Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge, depicted on the 100 take banknote, and Sonargaon Hotel, built shortly after independence, have been the symbols of our friendship for a long time.

In recent years, Japan has actively supported the infrastructural development of Bangiadesh, such as Dhaka

ment of Bangladesh, such as Dhaka MRT, Dhaka International Airport 3rd Terminal, and Matarbari Deep Sea Port for better regional connectivity, under the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Bett

(BIG-B)." Moreover, Japan also attaches impor-tance to Bangleidesh's socio-economic development such as health and edu-cation and extends support meeting the needs of Bangladesh.

I am confident that Japan's coopera-

I am confident that Japan's coopera-tion in these areas will support Bangladesh's goal to be a middle-in-come country and then become a de-veloped country, and eventually con-tribute to further development of our re-

lationship.

Bangladesh, which is located at a key point connecting Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent and has successfully been achieving high eco-nomic growth in recent years, is a very attractive destination for the Japanes business community. It is my hope that our economic relations that are marked by a great potential will make a further leap forward in the years to

come.

The outbreak of COVID-19 has posed unprecedented challenges to so-cioeconomic activities in the world and between our two countries. In order to overcome this crisis together with Bangladesh, Japan has provided an emergency budget sunoptible propriet. emergency budget support loan, grants of medical equipment, and other emergency support through international or-

ganizations for Bangladesh.
The pandemic has also heightened The pandemic has also heightened uncertainty, and how we secure peace and stability of the region has become an increasingly important challenge. Building a free and open order based on the rule of law and strengthening connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region will lead to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. Jepan will continue to work with Bangladesh to realize a Free and Open Indo-Pacific. Last but not least, the year 2022 will mark the 50th anniversary of the estab-



Sheikh Hasina

Today is the 26th March - our great Independence Day Bangladesh com-pletes 50 years today since its inde-pendence. I extend my heartiest greetings to the countrymen and ex-partiate Bangladeshis on the occasion of the golden jubilee of great indepen-dence.

The 26 March is the day of establishing self-identity of our nation. It's the day of breaking the shackles of subjugation. On this Independence subjugation. On this Independence Day, I recall with deep gratitude the Greatest Bangalee of all times, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujbur Rahman, under whose undis-puted leadership we have earned our independence. I pay my tributes to four national leaders, three million martyrs and two hundred thousand dishonoured women of the War of Liberation. My homage goes to all the valiant freedom fighters, including the wounded ones. I extend my sympa-thies to those who had lost their near

thies to those who had lost their near and dear ones, and were subjected to brutal torture during the Liberation War. I recall with grantude our foreign friends who had extended their support during our liberation war.

On the occasion of the golden jubilee of independence, colorful programs have been chalked out from 26. March 2021 to 16 December 2021 and the period from 17 March 2020 to 16 December 2021 is being celebrated as "Mujip Year" marking the birth centenary of the Patien. centenary of the Father of the Nation. In the wake of coronavirus pandemic, the Golden Jubilee of Independence

the Golden Jubilee of Independence and the 'Mujib Year' are being celebrated avoiding public gathering following the protocols of hyglene. The Bangalee nation had fought against oppression and deprivation of Pakistani rulers' for long 23 years under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib. They were compelled to hold general elections in 1970. Bangladeath Awami League led by Bangabandhu won absolute majority in the elections. But the Pakistani in the elections. But the Pakistani in the elections. But the Pakistan rulers adopted repressive measures

Continued to Page 8

lishment of diplomatic relations between isnment or opportance relations between Japan and Bangladesh, I will join hands with Bangladesh and work together closely to further strengthen our bilater-al relationship toward this special year. I express my sincere wishes for the prosperity of Bangladesh and Japan and a further deepening of our friendship. Dhonnobad.

Yoshihide Suga

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on the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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MO SHAHIDUR RAHMAN KHAN (HERO)



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on the 50th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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The Japan News by The Yomiuri Shimbun

National Day of Bangladesh



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Independence



instead of handing over power to the majority party repr for independence at the then Racecourse Ground on 7 March 1971 Racecourse Ground on 7 March 1971 Bangabandhu declared, "The struggle this time is the struggle for our eman-cipation; the struggle for our eman-cipation; the struggle for independence, Joi Bangla." He instructed the Bangalee Nation to resist the enemies. The Pakistani occupation forces un-leashed a sudden attack and started

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on the 50th Anniversary of

the Independence of

the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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assacring innocent and unarmed Bangalees on the fateful night of 25 March 1971. They killed thousands of people in different places, including Dhaka. Father of the Nation people in different places, including Dhaka, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman formally proclaimed the Independence of Bangladesh at the first hour of 26 March 1971. Bangabandhu's proclamation was spread all over the country through ledgarms, tele-printers and EPR wire less. The international media also had droulated Bangabandhu's proclama-tion of indepen-tion of indepen-dence. The first Government of

Bangladesh took oath on 17 April 1971 in

Muiibnagar with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President, Syed Nazrul Islam as Vice President, Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister, Capt. M Mensur Ali and AHM Kamanuzzaman as ministers. The resistance war regainst the proagainst the ocagainst the oc-cupying forces began. After a 9-month of blood-shedding libera-tion war, the final victory was a-chieved on 16 December. In the 50 years since in-

years since in-dependence

what we have achieved has been achieved by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League. In just three and a half years League. In just three and a half years of his government, he rebuilt he warrawaged country. Destroyed roads, bridges, culverts, railways, ports were rebuilt to review the economy. In 1975, the GDP growth rate exceeded 7%. Bangladesh gained recognition from 116 countries and got the memberships of 27 international organizations. Our constitution was made on the basis of the spirit of the liberation war under his direction within just 10 months. In just three and a half years, he took war-forn Bangladesh to the list of least developed country. While of least developed country. While Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was advancing to build an exploitation-depri-vation-free non-communal democrat-

vation-free non-communal democratic Sonar Bangla' overcoming all obstacles, the anti-liberation forces brutally killed him along with most of his family members on 15 August 1975.

After the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujlb, the development and progress of Bangladesh came to a halt. The politics of killing, coup and conspiracy started in our beloved motherland. The assassins and their accompless promulgated the "Indemnity Ordinance" to block the trial 'Indemnity Ordinance' to block the trial of this heinous murder in the history

Getting the public mandate in 1996, Bangladesh Awarni League formed Bangladesh Awami League formed the government after long 21 years. After assuring the office, we took the initiatives to establish Bangladesh as a self-respectful in the comity of nations. Through the introduction of social safety-net programs, poor and marginalized people are brought under government allowances. We made the country self-sufficient in food production with special emphasis on acriul-tion with special emphasis on acriultion with special emphasis on agricul-tural production. The Ganges Water



Courtesy of Benglectors Embass Bangladesh's Father of the Nation and first President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibu Rahman with his daughter Sheikh Hasina, the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh

Rahman with his daughter Sheikh Hasina, Sharing Treaty was signed with India in 1996. We signed the historic Peace Accord in 1997 with the aim of establishing peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. By repealing the 'Indemnity' Ordinance', we started the trial of Bangabandhu's assassination. Forming government in 2009 in consecutive three-terms, Bangladesh Awami League has relentlessly been working to improve the fate of the peet-ple inspired by the sphit of the great liberation war. We are implementing the unfinished works of the Father of the Nation. Today, Bangladesh is self-reliant in food production. The poverty rate has come down from 42.5% to 20.5% in the last 12 years. Our sovereign rights over the vast area in the Bay of Bengal have been established through the peaceful settlement of marilime disputes with Myammar and India. The implementation of the Bangladesh-India. Land Boundary

Agreement has put an end to the pro-tracted inhuman life of the enclave tracted inhuman life of the enclave people. The nation has become free from stigma by executing the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case. The trial of war criminals continues and the verdict is being executed.

We have formulated the Second

We have formulated the Second Perspective Plan for 2021-2041 and adopted the 8th Five Year Plan. We

adopted the 8th Five Year Flan. We have started the implementation of 100-year. Delta Plan 2100' for the first time in the world. Today, the benefits of 'Digital Bangladesh' have been expanded from urban to remote willage level. On the occasion of 'Millib Year', some 8 hundred 92 thousand homeless people are being provided houses. 70 handed over Another 50 thousand houses are under construction. A total of 9 lakh 98 thousand 346 families have been provided a coommodailles have been provided accommoda-tion since 1996. The civic facilities of

the city are being delivered to every village. 99% people are taken under electricity coverage. To keep the economy going offsetting the impacts of Coronavirus, we have so far announced 23 stimulus peckages worth Tk 1.24 lakh orce (\$14.8 billion), which is 4.44% of our GDP.

The independence earned through supreme sacrifices of millions of people is the greatest achievement of Bangalee Nation. To ensure that the achievement remains meaningful, all have to know the true history of our great Liberation War has to be propagated from generation to generations. The begint of the Liberation War has to be propagated from generation to generations.

from generation to generations.

The persistent efforts of the last 12 The persistent efforts of the last 12 years of the Bangladesh Awami League government have brought the final recommendations for Bangladesh to become a dignified developing country on the eve of the Golden Jubilee of Independence. This is a huge achievement for us.

Under the leadership of Bangshandfus Shekh Mujlib, the brave Bangalees liberated the country through the war of liberation within just nine months. I firmly believe that if this

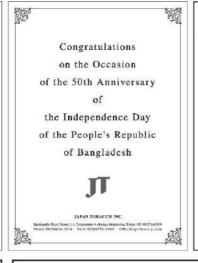
nine months. I firmly believe that if this trend of development continues, Bangladesh will soon be established as a developed-prosperous country in the world, InshaAllah.

Let us take oath on this auspicious Let us take oath on this auspicious occasion of the golden jubile of inde-pendence-imbued with the spirit of the Great War of Liberation, we all togeth-er will build hunger-poverly-illiteracy-free Golden Bangadesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabanchu Sheikh Mujbur Rahman. Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

Congratulations to the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the 50th Anniversary of Independence Day





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National Day of Bangladesh



special day

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Independence





Shahabuddin Ahmed

Courtesy of Banglaidesh Embassy Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina looks at the Padma Multipurpose Bridge ruction across the Padma River, the main distributary of the Ganges.

On the grand occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Independence and National Day of Bangladesh, I pay my deepest homage to the greatest Bengali of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman under whose leadership Bangladesh was born. I also remember with reverence, our four national leaders, all the martyrs and valiant frieedom fighters and brave people of Bangladesh through whose supreme sacrifices we achieved our independence in 1971.

I would like to convey my profound respect to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress, and extend my warm greetings to Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, and the government and friendly people of Japan on this special day. terms of containing the virus by rolling out an effective vaccination program since February 2021, con-taining the spread of infection and the fatality rate. It is noteworthy that taining the spread of infection and the fatality rate. It is noteworthy that despite the slowdown in the world conomy due to the pandemic, the government of Bangladesh has been able to keep the national economy with the properties of the product (GDP) or Product (GDP) growth of 5.24% in FY2019-20 while the projected growth in FY2020-21 is 8.2%. The final evaluation of the U.N. Committee for Development Policy (CDP) on Feb. 26 recommended Bangladesh's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) group for fulfilling its eligibility orieria. This journey of edvancement from an LDC to the reat level stemmed from the reientless

or advancement from an Luz. to the next level stemmed from the relentless efforts, planning and hard work of the people of Bangladesh led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for more than 12 years. It is noteworthy that from the ashes of total devastation, the war-rav-

aged countly was rised like a phoents under the leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu in just 3½ years' time (1972-1975) and Bangaldash was categorized as an LDC. And now after 50 years, the country has advanced and become qualified to graduate from the LDC status under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shelkh Hasina. All this is happening at the time of Mujib Year when the whole nation is celebrating the Birth Centenary of the Father of the Nation conjoined with the Golden Jubilee of Independence of Bangladesh. Now we are the 35th largest conomy in the world in nominal terms and 30th largest by purchasing power parily. Bangladesh is now self-reliant in food production while the powerty rate and extreme powerty rate were significantly extreme poverty rate were significantly reduced to 20.5% and 10.5%, respec-

Bangladesh offers the most liberal bangiadesin orients the most liberal and sound foreign direct investment (FDI) regime with fiscal and non-fis-cal incentives, which are the most competitive in South Asia. Almost all sectors are open for foreign investment without any quantitative con-straint. An abundance in skilled and semi-skilled labor force along with the prospect of favorable demographic dividends would keep the real wage in Bangladesh competitive for years to come. With cheap wages and low energy prices, Bangladesh offers low energy prices, Bangladesh offers low production cost compared to many production cost compared to many other countries. It is encouraging to see more and more Japanese investors being attracted to Bangladesh with increased confidence. At pre-sent, more than 300 Japanese com-

sent, more than 300 Japanese com-panies have their presence in our country. One hundred economic zones are being developed in Bangladesh, one exclusively for Japanese investors. Japan is the single largest bilateral development partner in our develop-ment endeavors. Since independence, Japan has been extending continuous support in different important sectors such as communication, infrastructure, such as communication, infrastructure, power, energy, health care, education, human resource development, etc.

With bilateral trade of more than With bilateral trade of more than \$3 billion, Japan is still our top export destination in Asia. Readymade garments, pharmaceutical, leather products and fine chinaware are some of the important export items to Japan. Bangladesh attaches top priority on expanding internet connectivity and digitalization, and today is evolving as a major outsourcing destination, with rapidly growing IT professionals and related services. Bangladesh and Japan share a

sionals and related services.

Bangladesh and Japan share a common vision on democracy, development, human rights and human dignity, and commitment to regional and international peace, development and security. As the country that continues the largest the largest. country that contributes the largest troops and police to the U.N. peacekeeping efforts globally, Bangladesh cooperates closely with Japan for international peace and security, too. In 2022, we are looking forward to jointly commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of clipionatic relations between the two friendly nations in a befitting manner. Our bilateral relations are based on trust, cooperation and mutual benefit to a Comprehensive Partnership.

Comprehensive Partnership.
Under the leadership of Hon'ble
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,
Bangladesh is
moving ahead
with in-

with with in-domitable spirit with people-centered devel-opment policies and vision. Notable strides have been have been made in ensuring food securi ty, public health, educa-tion for all, digital connectivity and women's advancement. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that gradu-ation from the list of LDCs is only the new beginning for achieving fur-ther targets by ther targets by Bangladesh. We will now focus on attain-ing the objec-tives of Sustainable Deve-Iopment Goals

(SDGs) by 2030, realizing the target of high middle-income country by 2031, and becoming a developed country by 2041 as set forth by Vision 2041. We are committed to accomplishing the "Golden Bengal" dreamt by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Rahman. Long live the Japan-Bangladesh friendship!

Shahabuddin Ahmed

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Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of the independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

congratulate my fellow Ban-

gladeshis living in Japan who are con-tinuously contributing to the develop-ment of our friendly relations. While the world is passing through unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangla-desh has done relatively better in





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Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

CONGRATULATIONS on the 50th Anniversary of the Independence Day of

the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Best wishes for the industrial and economic development and peace of Bangladesh. President: Md. Liakat Hossain

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